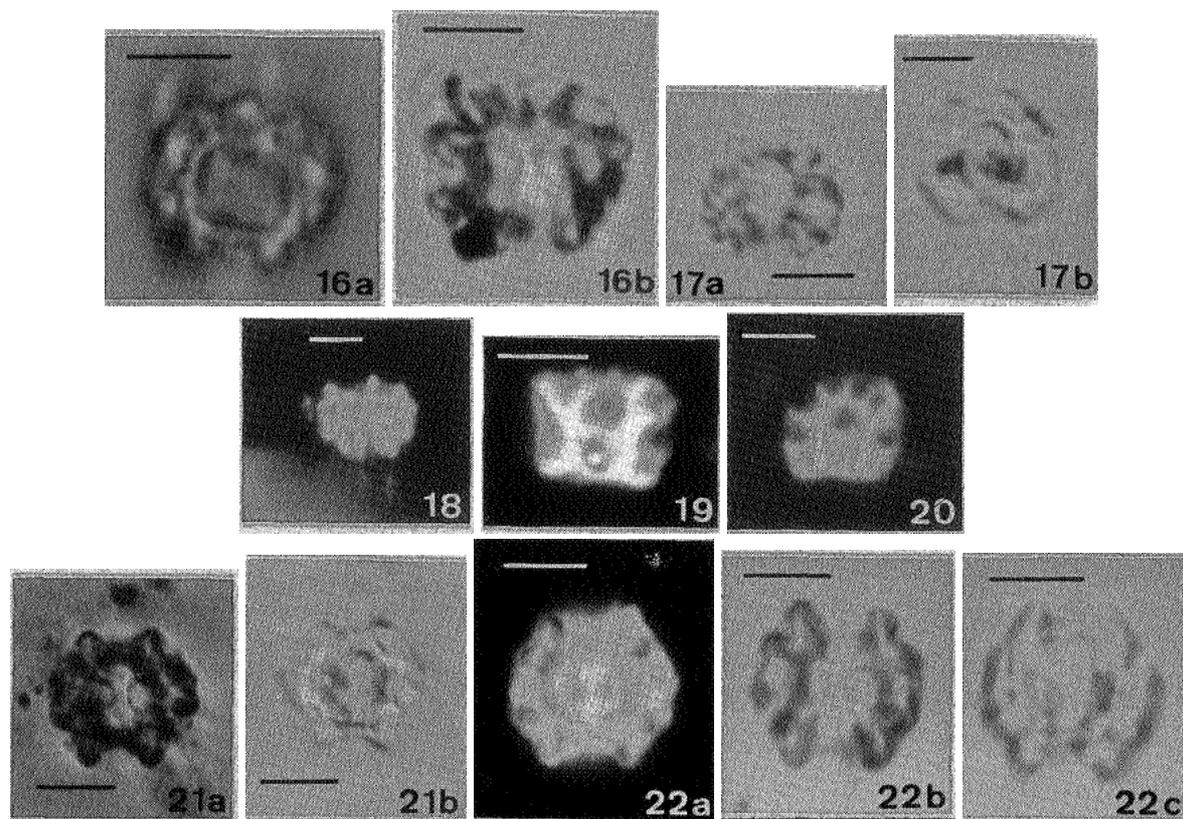
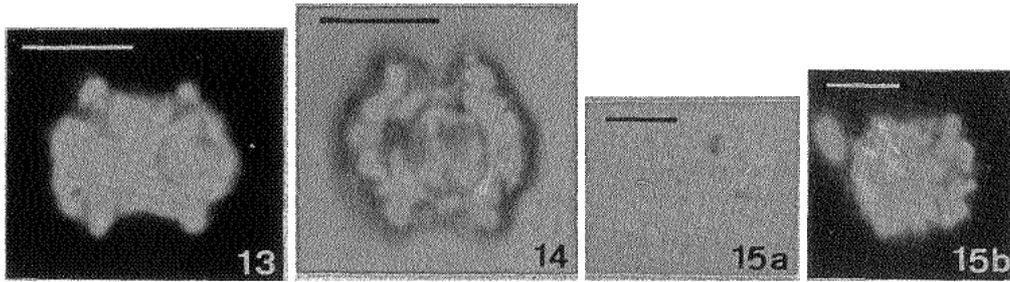


2. *Aubryosphaera deconinckii* Steurbaut (1990)



Pl. 1, figs 16-24

Scale bar represents 5 μ m. Morlanwelz Argilite Member 1 Gouy-lez-Piéton, motorway cutting at junction E42-R3; top of nanno-zone I, NP11. Fig. 16-22: *Aubryosphaera deconinckii* n. sp. 16. Kruishoutem borehole (84E-1362I), sample 8, 41.50m depth; nanno-zone IIIb2, base NP12; paratype; a. low focus, basal face; b. high focus, upper face. 17. Lauwe, sample 1, lowermost part of quarry "Céramique et Briqueteries du Littoral"; nanno-zone IIIb2, base NP12; paratype; a. high focus, upper face; b. low focus, basal face. 18. Lauwe, ibidem; upper face; paratype. 19. Kruishoutem borehole (84E-1362I), sample 8 (see Fig. 16); side view, parallel to central axis; paratype. 20. Lauwe, sample 1 (see Fig. 17); side view, perpendicular to central axis; paratype. 21. Kruishoutem borehole (84E-1362I), sample 8 (see Fig. 16); paratype; a. high focus, upper face; b. low focus, basal face. 22. Kruishoutem borehole (84E-1362I), sample 8; 41.50m depth; nanno-zone IIIb2, base NP12; holotype; a. & b. high focus, upper face; c. low focus, basal face. Fig. 24: *Aubryosphaera deconinckii* n. sp. Kruishoutem borehole (84E-1362I), sample 8, 41.50m depth; nanno-zone IIIb2, base NP12; upper face; paratype. nanno-zone IIIb2; base NP12. Mons-en-Pévèle Sand Member, Steenhuize-Wijnhuize (Herzele) borehole (86W-142 VII, CJ, 18m depth; nanno-zone IIIb2; base NP12. Fig. 23: *Aubryosphaera deconinckii* n. sp. upper face; paratype.



Pl. 4, figs 13-15

Scale bar represents 5 μm . Mons-en-Pévèle Sand Member. Fig. 13-15: *Aubryspaera deconinckii* n. sp. nannozone IIIb2; base NP12, paratypes. 13. Kwaadmechelen borehole (46E-179), interval 219.80-224m depth; upper face. 14. Kwaadmechelen borehole; interval 219.80-224m depth; basal face. 15. Ronse, Waaienberge, sample 1, 11m below surface; upper face.

1986 *Dactylethra* sp. - STEURBAUT & NOLF, p. 165.

Holotype: Pl. 1, Fig. 22 (negatives Laboratorium voor Paleontologie, R.U. Gent, Belgium).

Locus typicus: Kruishoutem borehole (84E-1362/I), Belgium ($x = 90.600$; $y = 177.350$); 41.50m depth.

Stratum typicum: Ieper Formation, Roubaix Clay Member; nanno-zone IIIb2, lower part NP12.

Age: Ypresian.

Paratypes: Pl. 1, figs 16-21, 23-24; Pl. 4, figs 13-15 (negatives Lab. voor Paleontologie, R.U. Gent, Belgium).

Derivatio nominis: In honour of my friend and colleague Dr. J. DE CONINCK (Gent), author of a very detailed dinoflagellate-zonation of the Belgian Ypresian.

Diagnosis: Dome-shaped, porous, bilateral symmetric body, consisting of a rather flat basal face with single large opening and a hollow construction of robust bifurcating ribs.

Description: *Aubryspaera deconinckii* is a dome-shaped nannolith, with somewhat variable outline ranging from perfectly round to more rectangular forms. It consists of a flat basal face with single large opening (see Pl. 1, figs 16a, 17b, 19 and 22c) and a hollow construction of robust ribs. These ribs form a central bridge on top of the uppermost face, which encloses two small circular openings on top and two larger elliptical depressions laterally (see Pl. 1, figs 22b, 23, 24; Pl. 4, Fig. 13). In this view, the nannolith resembles an owl's face, with two protruding heavy eye sockets (Pl. 4, figs 13 and 15). The lateral depressions are best observed in lateral view, in planes perpendicular to the axis of symmetry of the nannolith, which is vertical in standard orientation (Pl. 1, fig. 20). In cross-polarised light the specimens act as single crystals, showing maximum birefringence viewed at 45° and nearly no or extremely low birefringence parallel to the polarisation directions.

Dimensions: Length: 9 to 10 μ m, width: 8 to 10 μ m and height: 8 μ m (Holotype: L = 10 μ m; W= 10 μ m; H=8 μ m).

Remarks: This species was originally listed by STEURBAUT & NOLF (1986, p. 165) as *Dactylethra* sp., because it most closely resembles *Dactylethra punctulata* GARTNER, 1969. There are, however, some important structural differences between both species (see description of *Aubryisphaera*), which actually seem to exclude a close relationship. *A. deconinckii* is also rather similar to *Trochoaster operosus* (DEFLANDRE, 1954), especially in shape and construction, but differs fundamentally in optical behaviour.

Distribution: Up to now this species has only been recorded from the Ypresian of the Belgian Basin, where it seems to be restricted to the lower part of NP12. It defines the base of subzone IIIb2, in which it is also fairly well represented; rare in subzones IIIb3; IV and V.

Steurbaut, E., 1990. Ypresian Calcareous Nannoplankton Biostratigraphy and Palaeogeography of the Belgian Basin. *Bulletin de la Société Belge de Géologie*, **97(3/4)**: 251-285.